

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN REPEAL

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 1996

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, an UZI is one of the assault weapons considered a weapon of choice for drug traffickers, street gangs, and paramilitary extremist groups. The NRA and the Republican majority want to make this and other cop-killing guns readily available. To do that, they will have to repeal the assault weapons ban—a ban that over 70 percent of the American public favors because it makes the streets safer for our children.

UZI's have no purpose other than to kill people. They are not hunting weapons, they are not used for target practice, they are just used to kill people.

An UZI pistol was used on May 16, 1993, when a man who had been kicked out of a rural Fresno, CA, bar returned the next day with a friend and opened fire, killing seven people and wounding two others. This was the worst massacre in Fresno's history.

An UZI semiautomatic rifle was one of the guns used by James Oliver Huberty, an out-of-work security guard, when he walked into a San Ysidro, CA, McDonald's and killed 21 people.

If we want to avoid more massacres like these, we need to maintain the assault weapons ban.

It is America's children, not the National Rifle Association that this Congress should be protecting. But tomorrow, when many of my colleagues vote to repeal the assault weapons ban, they will be voting to give violent criminals everywhere greater access to deadly weapons that can be used to murder our children, our parents, our brothers and sisters, and our friends.

The Republican party is always claiming that it stands on principle. Now it can stand on the principle of more dead children.

WINNERS OF THE PHOENIXVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT'S DAY ESSAY CONTEST

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 1996

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Michelle Lin Byrd, Rosalind Newsholme, John Davison, Jenni Kirkhoff, and David Rourke, the winners of the Phoenixville Area Chamber of Commerce President's Day Essay Contest. I am submitting for the record each of their winning essays. Each of these students has composed a remarkable essay applauding a President who had to make a necessary, but unpopular decision, such as the decision made by President

Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. Other winning entries included Truman's decision to fire MacArthur, his decision to drop the atomic bomb on Japan, Ford's pardoning of Nixon, and Roosevelt's introduction of the New Deal. Each of these controversial decisions was, in retrospect, in the best interests of the American people despite being initially met with uncertainty and opposition.

The leaders of our time are met with the same difficult decisions, and we must continue to act in the best interest of the American people. One of the most important decisions that faces us today concerns education. However, the decision to cultivate the education of our children should not be met with controversy or skepticism. As a former teacher and the father of five, I believe the highest priority for our school system is teaching our students about the rich history of America. Learning about the history of the United States, including the mistakes of our Forefathers and their great triumphs, is the key to good citizenship and involvement in Government. George Santayana once said that "those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it." By understanding the actions and events of our ancestors, we can create a better future.

I hope that all of the entrants of the Phoenixville Area Chamber of Commerce President's Day Contest, not just the students recognized here, will gain a new appreciation for the importance of our history. Perhaps some insight gained through their research will influence some of these students to become involved in their government.

Mr. Speaker, I commend these students for their achievement and I know that my colleagues join me in honoring the success of these outstanding students. I would like to thank the Phoenixville Area Chamber of Commerce for offering this opportunity to the students of Phoenixville, and I would also like to thank The Phoenix for printing the winning essays and for promoting the contest.

HARRY S. TRUMAN

Harry S. Truman, our thirty-third president, was born on May 8, 1884 in Lamar, Missouri. He was a member of the democratic party and was in office from 1945 to 1953. Truman worked his way up in politics from judge to senator to vice president and finally to president of the United States. When Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945 Truman became president. He had a difficult task of learning to be effective in his office because Roosevelt had made no effort to train him for his future responsibilities. He learned simply by dealing with the problem that faced him.

Truman tried to carry out the politics that Roosevelt had begun to establish. This included the unconditional surrender of Germany on May 8th and the establishing of the United Nations. Truman then had to make a decision about the World War II. He had to make a decision that might end up being unpopular. Truman decided to use the atomic bomb against Japan. He believed that this would end the war quickly and save lives. He thought that it would put the United States in a position to help revolutionize Japanese life. When people look back at the situation now there seems to have been other ways to

end the war, such as negotiated settlements, but these options were not as obvious back then. Truman made the decision he thought that would be the best decision.

Presidents of the past, the present and the future have and will make choices that will be unpopular but necessary. I believe that of the choices of the past have made the United States the great country that we are privileged to live in today.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Franklin D. Roosevelt was the 32nd President of the United States of America. As President, he had to make a lot of decisions. Some of them were popular and some were not. A very unpopular decision at the time was his New Deal. The New Deal was to have unemployment insurance, retirement programs, wage and hour laws, housing for the poor, and jobs for the needy all as the responsibility of the Federal Government. It is important to remember that this was the 1930's when nothing like this existed. However, many people didn't like this decision because it was very new and they didn't trust it. They also thought that the government was trying to interfere with their lives. Employers didn't like the minimum wage and hours because they had less power over their workers. Although the New Deal was unpopular at the time, people started getting used to it and began to accept it. It is now all a very necessary part of the American way of life. I think that in a way this decision was good because it shows how our government is for the people.

GERALD R. FORD

Gerald Ford, our 38th president, was the only president elected neither to the presidency nor to the vice presidency. He attempted during his term to restore the nation's confidence in a government tarnished by the Watergate scandal.

Ford became vice president when Richard Nixon's vice president Spiro T. Agnew resigned. Nine months later, on August 9, 1974, President Nixon resigned as president under threat of impeachment, and Gerald Ford was sworn in as our president.

One of his first and most debatable acts was to pardon Nixon for all federal crimes he might have committed in office. This made him extremely unpopular. I think this was a necessary decision, because, we couldn't let this drag on and on, like the O.J. Simpson trial. This country had a high inflation rate and the highest unemployment rate since the depression. These were more important problems to solve than Watergate. It was time for the nation to start healing and get on with the important issues facing the American people.

In his two and a half years as president Gerald Ford lowered the inflation rate from 11.2 to 5.3 percent, he also lowered the unemployment rate. Even after all this he could not win the presidential election in 1976, because, the public only remembered him as the man who pardoned Richard Nixon.

TRUMAN FIRES MACARTHUR

In 1951 this headline shook the U.S. and the world. On April 5 Harry Truman was furious at MacArthur and decided he must go. For five days he kept this secret until they could decide on a replacement. They decided on Lieut. General Matthew Ridgway.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

The reporters were summoned at 1:00 a.m. The press got hand-out sheets from the press secretary: "With deep regret, I have concluded that General of the Army Douglas MacArthur is unable to give his wholehearted support to the policies and directives issued to them in the manner provided by our laws and the Constitution."

Why the 1:00 a.m. summons? The White House's lame explanation was timing for the general, since it was then midafternoon in Tokyo. But that wasn't the real reason at all; the news had been timed to make the morning newspapers and catch the Republicans in bed.

The man he fired was a military hero, idolized by many. MacArthur had done a superb job as Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in the reconstruction of Japan. Truman himself admired MacArthur's soldiering.

But MacArthur was strong minded and had set himself firmly against the policy of Truman. Douglas MacArthur would not compromise his views of what was right and necessary. The clash between the two was slow in building, but the end was inevitable.

The Senate and Congress were divided over Truman's decision. The American public supported MacArthur. When MacArthur returned to the states he was a General of the Army, stripped of his commands and without assignment, yet the U.S. was waiting to sweep him up in a tremendous greeting all the way to Manhattan's tickertaped Broadway. His words had brought public dismissal and reprimand from his Commander in Chief, yet the Congress of the U.S. honored him by asking him to address them. When he did give his speech before Congress he was given a standing ovation.

In my opinion Truman firing MacArthur was the most unpopular decision ever made by an American president.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

In 1861 Abraham Lincoln was elected 16th President of the United States. When he took office, and during the early stages of the Civil War, President Lincoln wanted to preserve the American Union of which slavery was a part. There was great pressure upon him to free the slaves but he refused. He had no wish to interfere with slavery where it already existed. Lincoln declared that he was fighting to save the Union, not to free the slaves. As the Civil War progressed, the Northerners demanded the end to slavery.

In 1863 President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation declaring that slaves be free. Lincoln repeatedly urged all states to free their slaves. In 1865 The Emancipation Proclamation cleared the way for Amendment 13 to the constitution ending slavery throughout the United States and declaring all men to be created equal.

President Lincoln's decision not to end slavery at the beginning of the Civil War appealed to some people but not to others. Lincoln made this choice not for popularity but because he thought it was the right decision for the Union's people. Despite the pressure to end slavery Lincoln made the decision to end slavery when he thought it was best for the Union.

The choices President Lincoln made helped to cause his assassination. A President makes decisions every day regarding our country. They make the best choices they can although they cannot please everyone. President Lincoln made what he thought was the best decision for the Union. John Wilkes Booth, his assassin, did not agree.

TRIBUTE TO RAY GILMARTIN

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 1996

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to my friend Ray Gilmartin on being honored by West Bergen Mental Healthcare. On Sunday, March 24, Ray will be presented with the West Bergen's Distinguished Service Award.

I cannot think of a person who is more deserving of this honor. I have known Ray and Gladie Gilmartin for many years and have seen the seriousness of their commitment to their community.

Those across America who know Ray know him as a distinguished captain of industry. Since he earned his MBA from Harvard Business School just a few short years ago, he has had a meteoric rise in the business world. He now serves as chairman, president and chief executive officer of Merck & Co., the world's largest pharmaceutical concern. He previously served in the same capacity at another premier firm, Becton Dickinson & Co. of Franklin Lakes, NJ.

He is a national leader in health care. An active participant in health industry affairs, Ray is a member of the board of the Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America and Project HOPE, a nonprofit organization conducting educational programs in the health sciences. He is also chairman-elect of the Healthcare Leadership Council, a national coalition that promotes cutting-edge health care reform.

Closer to home, those who know Ray know him as a passionate supporter of a wide range of community activities. In addition to his chairmanship of the board of Valley hospital in Ridgewood, his public service activities also include serving as a board member at Union College in Schenectady, NY., the United Negro College Fund, the Associates of Harvard Business School, the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce, and the Ethics Resource Center. He is also a member of the Business Roundtable and the Business Council and a trustee of the Conference Board and the Committee for Economic Development. He is also a member of the board of the Provident Corp. and PSE&G.

My husband, Dr. Richard Roukema, and I are proud of our longtime association with West Bergen Mental Healthcare. For years, West Bergen Mental Healthcare has served effectively northern New Jersey's population of the mentally ill, in effect, speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves. Further, West Bergen responds to crises in our community in a way that no other organization can. And now, this effective and caring organization is reaching out to children and youth in a way it has not ever before. Its Center for Children and Youth in Ramsey provides counseling and psychotherapy for youngsters aged 2 to 18 regardless of their ability to pay.

Mr. Speaker, America's communities could all use more dedicated community-minded organizations like this. But fundamentally, organizations like this could all use more dedicated supporters like Ray Gilmartin. He is a shining example of the volunteer community service that makes America strong.

TRIBUTE TO CAPT. MICHAEL W. KIGHT, MONTEBELLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 1996

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Montebello P.D. Capt. Michael W. Kight on the occasion of his retirement. Captain Kight spent more than 30 years protecting the interests and enhancing the safety of our community.

Captain Kight was born in Los Angeles, CA, and attended local schools, including east Los Angeles and Cerritos Colleges, where he earned his associate of arts degree in police science. He began his law enforcement career in 1964, serving as a patrol officer with the City of Bell Police Department. On July 30, 1972, Captain Kight was hired as a police officer with the Montebello Police Department, where he served for the past 24 years.

Captain Kight quickly proved himself to be a natural leader, providing direction, leadership, and expertise in law enforcement. He rapidly rose through the ranks, becoming senior officer in 1974; patrol sergeant in 1975; detective sergeant in 1980; lieutenant in 1987; and captain of field services in 1988. He was awarded exceptional performance pay in 1979, when he significantly exceeded performance standards for management of his employees. In 1983, he was awarded exceptional performance pay for reducing overtime hours and increasing the arrests and clearance in the detective bureau. Again in 1985, he was awarded exceptional performance pay for his outstanding handling of an internal affairs investigation. In 1994, he was awarded the prestigious Career Contribution Management Award in recognition of his high standards of excellence and dedication to superior service to the residents of Montebello.

Michael W. Kight has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to his chosen field of law enforcement, earning him the respect and admiration of his colleagues and community. On Saturday, March 23, 1996, his friends, family, and staff members will congratulate him on his retirement from the Montebello Police Department, and thank him for his years of exceptional service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Michael W. Kight, one of our community's finest law enforcement officers and public servants.

IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 1996

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for Women's History Month. Women make contributions to our society every day—all year long. But this month offers a special opportunity to acknowledge and to raise awareness about women's contributions in all aspects of our culture—including health, education, public service, and the arts. Minnesota has produced strong female civic leaders who have worked to enhance the lives of